



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Lewistown Field Office
Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
920 NE Main Street, P.O. Box 1160
Lewistown, Montana 59457-1160



1610.RMP(050)

September 2005

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS) for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The Draft RMP/EIS considers and analyzes six alternatives that address future management of approximately 375,000 acres of BLM land in the Monument, with Alternative F identified as the agency's preferred alternative. While a preferred alternative has been identified, a final decision has not been made. The final decision, which will be documented in a Record of Decision, will be made only after consideration of the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS and after a Proposed RMP/Final EIS has been released. The Draft RMP/EIS is available on the BLM website at http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/planning.htm.

Your review and comments are needed at this time to ensure that your concerns are adequately addressed in the planning process. The public review period for the Draft RMP/EIS is 90 calendar days and will begin with publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additional information on public meeting dates and times to discuss the plan and provide comments will be forthcoming in news releases after publication of the EPA notice. Written comments should be sent to the Monument Manager, 920 NE Main Street, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457. All comments will be fully considered and evaluated in the preparation of the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, and all substantive comments will be addressed.

Comments will be most useful if they are specific, mention particular pages of the document where appropriate, and address one or more of the following:

- Identify inaccuracies or discrepancies in information
- Identify new information that would have a bearing on the analysis
- Identify new impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures
- Make suggestions for improving management direction

Comments, including name and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Lewistown Field Office during regular business hours between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Final EIS. You may request confidentiality if you are commenting as an individual, but you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

We appreciate your help in this planning effort and look forward to your continued interest and participation. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Jerry Majerus, Project Manager, at (406) 538-1924.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Slagel
Monument Manager